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doubt that a conception of the condition of the Hebrews on their entrance into history may be best won by a study of Arabian antiquity." If it be objected, that we know the Arabs only through Islam and so cannot get at their [pre-Islamic] antiquity, he would reply that the earlier stages of Islam show plainly the condition from which the people had just emerged.

The book is, as stated in the title, an abridged translation of Vakidi's collection of traditions concerning Mohammed—one of the earliest Arabic histories. Wellhausen gives in the preface some account of the MSS. on which he had to rely, a justification of his system of translation, an estimate of his author and a criticism of Sprenger's *Life of Mohammed*. The translation begins with Anno Hegiræ and gives the history of ten years. It will be thought characteristic of Mohammedanism that it is a chronicle of raids and battles in almost unintermitting sequence. The rudeness of the people is illustrated on almost every page. The light thrown upon Old Testament scenery is much less than one would expect.

H. P. SMITH.

DIE SPRUECHE DER VAETER.*

The Mishna treatise *Pirqê Abhôth* has always been a favorite and has been edited a number of times. This edition differs, in several respects advantageously, from earlier ones. It endeavors to meet the wants of students and is well adapted to this end. In the first place the text is vocalized throughout, undoubtedly a great help to those accustomed to the Massoretic punctuation. Then all words not found in the Bible or whose meaning is not the same as in Biblical Hebrew are defined in the annotations when first met, and referred to in subsequent passages. A complete index of the words so defined is provided at the end of the book. Finally the cheapness of this edition contrasts favorably with the price of others, Taylor's *Sayings of the Jewish Fathers* (Cambridge University Press, 1877) for example. More information of various kinds may be got from Taylor's elaborate and scholarly book, but for practical aid to the student who wishes some knowledge of post-biblical Hebrew, Strack's is to be preferred.

H. P. SMITH.

OLD TESTAMENT ETHICS VINDICATED.†

Perhaps no more difficult subject presents itself in connection with Biblical Study, than that of Old Testament Ethics. Among other qualifications which are necessary to a satisfactory discussion of the questions involved, there may be mentioned: (1) a wide and comprehensive grasp of ancient history and customs, (2) a thorough knowledge of Biblical history, (3) a marked ability as an exegete, and (4) a reasonable acquaintance with the attacks which have been made through all the centuries. The author of this volume seems to be qualified for his work, at

* *DIE SPRUECHE DER VAETER*; ein ethischer Mischna Traktat mit kurzer Einleitung, Anmerkungen und einem Wortregister von Lic. Dr. HERM. L. STRACK. Karlsruhe und Leipzig, 1882. Pp. 58, small 8vo.

† *OLD TESTAMENT ETHICS VINDICATED*, being an exposition of Old Testament Morals, a comparison of Old Testament Morals with the Morals of Heathen—so called—"Sacred Books," Religious Philosophers, and Infidel writers; and a Vindication of Old Testament Morals against Infidelity. By REV. W. A. JARREL, Published by the author, Greenville, Texas. Pp. 277. Price, \$1.50.

least, in the last particular. As to the other particulars we are not so certain. His style is certainly unique. His exegesis, we fear, is lame in several places. The quotations probably constitute the best feature of the book. The book is strictly orthodox, the author feeling in conscience bound kindly but firmly to rebuke the uncertain sound of certain orthodox pens with reference to Mr. Emerson. The discussions are full, fourteen arguments, e. g., being brought forward to prove that the Jephthah did not sacrifice his daughter. The book would be of more value if it had a table of contents and an index. R.

*THE FAITHS OF THE WORLD.**

The importance attached to the study of the Comparative History of Religions has been the signal for numerous discussions. What kin is Heathendom to Christendom? What are their beliefs in common? What are the features of Heathendom that most resemble Christianity? What are their systems of belief as a whole? What is their influence on their devotees? In no other work of the same compass are all of these questions discussed in an equally impartial, thorough, clear and comprehensive manner.

It comprises twelve lectures upon eleven of the great world-religions. A bare mention of the topics and authors must suffice :

I and II. Religions of India ; Brahmanism and Buddhism, REV. JNO. CAIRD, D. D. These lectures evincing a most thorough mastery of the principles of these faiths, are treated with the characteristic fullness and clearness of the author. III. The Religion of China, REV. GEO. MATHESON, D. D. But one of the great state-religions, and the principal one, Confucianism, is dealt with. It is a masterly treatment of the author's "ancient Carlyle," his life and teachings. IV. The Religion of Persia : Zoroaster and Zend Avesta, REV. JNO. MILNE. This contains a chaotic mass of facts, whose value is almost nothing from lack of scientific treatment. V. The Religion of Egypt, REV. JAS. DODDS, D. D. The "cradle of civilization," the Nile Valley, is the storehouse of primitive wisdom and religion. Dr. Dodds takes up the embalmed religion, lays back its folds, and displays it in the full light of modern research. We now come down to comparatively modern times, in (VI) The Religion of Greece, PROF. MILLIGAN, and (VII) The Religion of Rome, REV. JAS. MCGREGOR, D. D. These are full treatments of Greek and Roman mythology and worship. The VIIIth brings us nearer home—a pithy treatment on the Teutonic and Scandinavian Religions, by DR. BURNS. On (IX) The Religion of Central America, DR. LANG, brings us to our own continent and initiates us into the mysteries of the belief and worship of the Aztecs and Toltecs. Judaism as the religion of ancient Israel, by DR. TAYLOR of Edinburgh, is next discussed in a concise, yet exhaustive manner. Mohammedanism, DR. LEES, as the outgrowth of the character of its founder is lacking neither in thoroughness nor systematic treatment. A capstone for the series is Christianity in Relation to

* THE FAITHS OF THE WORLD. St. Giles' Lectures. Svo, pp. 364. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Price \$1.50.